SPORTS theJohnsonian

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A tough week for baseball

Winthrop falls, Blue Hose follow with a sweep

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It wasn't the best week for the Winthrop Eagle baseball team. The Winthrop Eagles dropped 4 games after several tough road losses.

The latest Red Ventures Collegiate Baseball Series featured two local college clubs playing at BB&T Ballpark, home of the Charlotte Knights. The Winthrop Eagles and UNC Charlotte 49ers duked it out under the Queen City skyline.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, that skyline view also featured three home run balls cracked off the bats of a hot hitting 49ers offense. 14 hits by Charlotte lead to a 7- victory for the 49ers.

The loss came as a disappointment for the Eagles who were hoping to tally a win in Charlotte's (big) minor league park.

The loss ended a five game winning streak for the Eagles while snapping a five loss losing streak for Charlotte.

Winthrop had several shots at putting up significant runs throughout the game. The best came at the bottom of the seventh when the Eagles, trailing by five, had bases loaded with only one out. Eagle infielder Tyler Absil stepped up to the plate and grounded out on a inning ending 6-4-3 double play.

Woes continued for Winthrop as the team failed to advance a man past first for the remainder of the game. Pitcher Nate Pawelczyk gave Logan Sherer his second home run of the evening putting the final score at 7-1.

The first dinger by Sherer came at the top of the sixth that immediately followed a two run home run by teammate Drew Ober.

Ober and Sherer accounted for five of Charlotte's 14 hits.

Eagles starter Riley Arnone was given the loss, dropping him to 2-2 on the season. Arnone struck out four batters but gave up five hits and two runs in his three innings pitched.

The baseball squad's woes continued into the weekend with a three game weekend road series against the Presbyterian College Blue Hose.

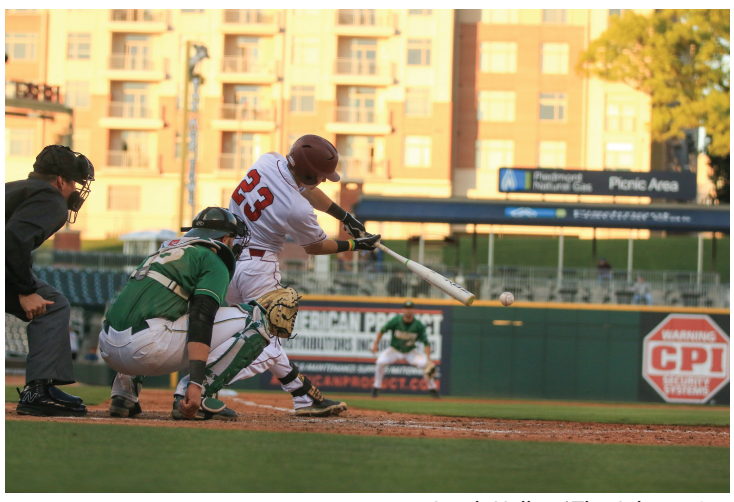
Presbyterian College swept the Eagles with three victories over the weekend.

The week of losses dropped the Eagles to a season record of 16-16 (.500). Most of those loses, 13, came from road or neutral site games.

The Eagles have a great chance to bounce back with a week long six game home stretch starting Tuesday.

Winthrop now sits at a 4-5 conference record which puts them in 7th place in Big South standings.

The Eagles are four games back from conference leader Coastal Carolina.



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Winthrop struggled to produce on both sides of the ball on Tuesday. The 49ers out scored Winthrop 7-1 by capitalizing on several Eagle miscues. (Top) Derek Fritz beats the tag in a play at the plate. (Bottom) Eagle's second basemen Brandon Fite tips a ball foul in BB&T Park.

Lacrosse seeks Big South Championship

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By April 12, the Winthrop lacrosse team had played 14 games in the season. They won 12 and lost two.

They went on to finish the season 17-4 and win the Big South Championship.

The Eagle's game last week against Presbyterian was the first home game in almost a month. Thus far, they have lost one home game and one away game.

The losses came back to back. The first loss at home to the Bryant Bulldogs 12-13 in overtime. The next loss four days later against the Bucknell Bison 6-9.

Aside from those two losses, the Eagles have been on fire from day one. As of April 6th, they averaged a score of eight points more than their opponents. Their highest scoring game was against Radford 26-5. The team has averaged 28.6 shots per game.

The season hasn't been easy; some days the team has played two games in two locations within six hours.

Aside from that, schools with bigger and older programs are ready to knock Winthrop off its Big South pedestal.

Katherine Judge, a sophomore from Delaware, has felt growing intensity from other teams.

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>
> Katherine Judge
> *Sophomore social work major*

Seeking a second championship isn't the only landmark for the lacrosse team this year. This season the team has nine seniors, four juniors, ten sophomores, and six freshman.

The graduating seniors are the first Winthrop lacrosse players to have graduated from the team after playing for four years.

The team has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 2013.

Coach John Sung brought in 24 girls: two juniors, one sophomore, and twenty-one freshmen.

They went 9-8 in the season. The next year they went 8-11. The massive change came in the program's third year (last year) when the team went 17-4.

The Big South Quarterfinals will begin on April 30.

The semi-finals will follow on May 5, and the championship itself will take place on May 7.

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